

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01

PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 047733

R 061310Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1259

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

YRUESOR/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 17

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, US,EG

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN CP ORGAN CRITICAL OF EGYPT'S TURN TO WEST

1. SUMMARY: HSWP MOUTHPIECE, IN FIRST AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT SEEN HERE ON RECENT CHANGES IN EGYPTIAN POLICY TOWARDS USSR, CRITICIZES SADAT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD US AND USSR. TONE OF EDITORIAL IS MILD AND LANGUAGE MEASURED BUT EDITORIAL CLEARLY REFLECTS SOVIET CONCERN OVER RECENT SADAT MOVES AWAY FROM USSR AND TOWARDS MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH US. END SUMMARY.

2. PARTY DAILY "NEPSZABADSAG" MAY 3 CARRIER EDITORIAL BY ME CORRESPONDENT SANDOR BOECZ CONCERNING "CHANGE" IN EGYPT'S POLICY TOWARD US. ARTICLE CLAIMS ARAB AND EGYPTIAN PUBLIC OPINION CANNOT UNDERSTAND PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT "SUPPORTERS OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND SWORN ENEMY OF ARAB PEOPLE ARE NOW UNSELFISH MEDIATORS, PLAYING PRO-

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ARAB ROLE AND READY TO ASSIST".

3. REFERRING TO SADAT'S COMMENTS TO NYT REGARDING ARMS PURCHASES FROM NON-SOVIET SOURCES EDITORIAL POINTS OUT "DECISIVE" MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO REGION BY SOVIETS AND REPORTS "PROGRESSIVE ARAB CIRCLES" AS QUESTIONING WHETHER US INTENTIONS IN ME HAVE CHANGED. MARXIST JOURNALIST LOFTI EL-KHOLI QUOTED ON NEED FOR COOPERATION OF PROGRESSIVE ARAB FORCES AND FOR "REVELATION OF LIES REGARDING ARAB AND ISRAELI INTENTIONS", WHICH ARE MERELY TO "ASSURE AMERICAN HEGEMONY, OVERTHROW PROGRESSIVE SYSTEMS AND NEO-COLONIALIZE OIL-RICH AREA". LOFOC EL-KHOLI ALSO QUOTED ON NECESSITY FOR ARABS TO MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN SOVIET AND US ARMS IN AREA AND TO RECOGNIZE THAT USSR HAS NO DESIRE "TO INFLUENCE OR LIMIT POLICY OF ARAB COUNTRIES". WITH APPARENT SIDESWIPE AT SADAT "NEPSZABADSAG" COMMENTS THAT "THERE ARE SOME INCLINED TO FORGET ABOUT IT ALL", I.E., SOVIET ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AND ALLEGED EFFORTS US AND WESTERN EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE "FIRST PROGRESSIVE SYSTEM" IN ME BY IMPOSING A BOYCOTT ON TRADE AND ARMS.

4. EDITORIAL IS FIRST AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT HERE ON RECENT CHANGES IN EGYPTIAN POLICY TOWARDS USSR. GIVEN FACT THAT IN SUCH MATTERS GOH ALMOST INVARIABLY TAKES ITS CUE FROM MOSCOW, EDITORIAL ALMOST CERTAINLY REFLECTS SOVIET VIEW OF RECENT SHIFT IN SADAT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS US AND USSR. ALTHOUGH EDITORIAL IS CRITICAL OF SADAT POLICIES IT IS QUITE CAREFUL NOT TO MENTION HIM BY NAME; IT APPARENTLY BEING MORE SUITABLE TO REFER TO "ARAB MARXISTS" AND "PROGRESSIVE ARAB CIRCLES" THAN TO SOVIETS AS SOURCES OF CONCERN RE SITUATION IN EGYPT.

5. TONE OF EDITORIAL IS MILD AND LANGUAGE MEASURED SUGGESTING EFFORT AT GIVING IMPRESSION OF OBJECTIVITY. IT GIVES US CREDIT FOR HAVING PROMOTED DISENGAGEMENT ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN TROOPS BUT IMMEDIATELY LABELS

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THIS ACHIEVEMENT AS "ONLY REMARKABLE EVIDENCE OF CHANGE IN AMERICAN ATTITUDE", ADDING THAT ROAD TO TOTAL EVACUATION "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS LONG". MESSAGE: EGYPT WOULD DO BETTER TO LOOK BEYOND ITS NARROW SELF-INTERESTS TO LARGER INTERESTS OF ME AS A WHOLE BEFORE CARRYING OUT ANY MAJOR SHIFTS IN ITS POLICIES TOWARDS USSR AND US.

6. WE OBVIOUSLY
ARE NOT IN POSITION TO ASSESS ME
SCENE, BUT IT DOES APPEAR AS THOUGH NEPSZABADSAG
IS PLAYING UPON FEARS BOTH IN ARAB WORLD AND IN EGYPT
ITSELF THAT SADAT IS MOVING TOO FAR AND TOO FAST
WITH U.S.

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